

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 01636 311443Z

43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 SPC-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00

MC-02 ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 DRC-01 AID-20

IGA-02 /120 W

----- 032686

O 311419Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6582

INFO CHUSMTM DHAHRAN SA IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DISTENGR RIYADH SA//SANG PM// IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 1636

SECDEF FOR ISA AND DSAA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJECT: SANG MODERNIZATION

REF: STATE 62377

1. (S) PRINCE ABDULLA HAS HAD KING AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE FOR FOUR MECHANIZED BATTALIONS WITH SUPPORTING ARTILLERY SINCE BEFORE RAYTHEON SUBMITTED ITS PROPOSAL IN 1972. POINT OF TWO VERSUS FOUR WAS MAJOR ISSUE RAISED BY ABDULLA DURING 13 DECEMBER 73 PRESENTATION. ABDULLA WAS DETERMINED NOT TO SETTLE FOR LESS THAN HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN OK'D FOR GUARD, AND WAS READY AT THAT TIME TO REJECT USG PROPOSAL. HE ACQUIESCED IN IT ONLY AFTER AMBASSADOR'S LETTER OF 26 DECEMBER (JIDDA 5734) PROVIDED HIM WITH BUDGET ESTIMATE HE COULD SUBMIT TO KING FOR GREATER NUMBER OF UNITS. (AMBASSADOR'S LETTER MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, USG ONLY OBLIGATED TO TWO BATTALION MODERN-

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 01636 311443Z

IZATION PROGRAM WITH ANY ADD-ONS TO BE CONSIDERED NLT END

OF PROGRAM'S THIRD YEAR.)

2. (S) ACCORDINGLY, ABDULLA DEFENDED A FOUR UNIT - \$335 MILLION PROPOSAL BEFORE MINISTER OF FINANCE WHO GAVE HIS CONCURRENCE ON 7 MARCH AFTER WHICH FOUR UNIT PROPOSAL WAS SENT TO KING. ON 11 MARCH ABDULLA'S DEPUTY, SHAIKH TUWAIJIRI, INFORMED US ARMY DEPUTY PROGRAM MANAGER THAT KING FAISAL HAD APPROVED THE \$335 MILLION - FOUR UNIT PROGRAM AND LETTER WAS BEING SENT TO AMBASSADOR BY ABDULLA. LETTER HAS NOT YET ARRIVED IN JIDDA BUT WE NOTE LAST LETTER FROM ABDULLA TO AMBASSADOR TOOK 16 DAYS IN TRANSIT FROM RIYADH.

3. (S) ABDULLA WILL NOW NEED USG L/O TO DOCUMENT OBLIGATION OF FUNDS APPROVED BY KING FAISAL. WE RECOMMEND STRONGLY THAT L/O BE RELEASED COVERING THE LARGER PACKAGE. WE UNDERSTAND LANGUAGE OF DRAFT L/O IS VAGUE, AND IN ANY EVENT PROGRAM IS TO START WITH THE TWOTBATTALION PROGRAM AS BRIEFED ON 13 DECEMBER. SHOULD FOR ANY REASON USG DECIDE NOT TO CONTINUE ON WITH ADDITIONAL UNITS AT FUTURE DATE, BOTH MOU OF 19 MARCH 1973 AND FINE PRINT ON BACK OF L/O PROVIDE CANCELLATION CLAUSES. SAG WILL NOT HAVE PAID USG ANY FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL UNITS UNTIL BILLED BY USG AT MUCH LATER DATE. IN MEANTIME L/O PROVIDES ABDULLA WITH TOOL TO MAKE INTERNAL SAG BUDGETARY OBLIGATION. CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM 3 TO 5 YEARS FROM NOW WOULD SEEM TO HAVE NO GREATER POTENTIAL FOR DAMAGE TO USG-SAG RELATIONS THAN TO INSIST AT THIS POINT ON LIMITING THE PAPER WORK TO COVERING TWO UNITS ONLY. FURTHER BELIEVE REFUSAL TO PROVIDE ABDULLA WITH FOUR MECHANIZED BATTALION L/O WOULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH GOOD PROSPECTS FOR CLOSER USG-SAG COOPERATION IN MILITARY AND DEFENSE AFFAIRS.

4. COUNTRY TEAM VIEWS WERE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL WITH MG GORDON SUMNER IN RIYADH ON 19 MARCH.
HORAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL GUARD, MILITARY BUDGET, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, COST ESTIMATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JIDDA01636
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740071-0288
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974031/aaaaaacr.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 62377
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 AUG 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <27 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SANG MODERNIZATION
TAGS: MASS, SA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005